

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 L-03
OES-07 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FMC-01 INR-07
NSAE-00 CG-00 DLOS-09 AID-05 CEQ-01 SOE-02 EPA-01
NSF-01 NSC-05 PM-05 USIA-06 SS-15 SP-02 DOE-11
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R 290900Z DEC 77

FM AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0084

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E O 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORG AORG EWWT IMCO MA

SUBJ: ADMINISTRATION INITIATIVES ON TANKER SAFETY AND
POLLUTION PREVENTION:.) PREPARATIONS FOR PLRNIPOTENTIALRY
CONFERENCE IN LONDON FEB 6-17, 1978. MADAGASCAR REACTIONS.

REF: A) STATE 60283 B) STATE 296444

1. SUMMARY. MADAGASCAR HAS NOT RECEIVED US PROPOSALS FROM
IMCO SECRETARIAT, BUT HAS INITIALLY NEGATIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD
FURTHER TECHNICAL MEASURES TO REDUCE POLLUTION FROM SHIPS.
DEPARTMENT MUST DECIDE WHETHER TO PURSUE THIS MATTER WITH
MADAGASCAR GOVERNMENT OR LET IT DROP. END SUMMA
2. ON DECEMBER 21, I CALLED ON GABRIEL RAKOTONIAINA,
CHEF DU SEVICE DES NATIONS UNIES ET DES INSTITUTIONS
SPECIALISEES IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. RAKOTO-
NIAINA, AN OLD-HAND ON UN MATTERS, SERVED SEVERAL
YEARS AT MADAGASCAR MISSION TO U.N., AND TOOK PART
IN AN IMCO CONFERENCE IN LONDON IN EARLY 1960'S.
HE HAS LITTLE DETAILED KNOWLEDGE OF IMCO MATTERS, AS
HE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR MADAGASCAR'S RELATIONS WITH ALL
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UN SPECIALIZED AGENCIES.

CITING MADAGASCAR'S THOUSANDS OF KILOMETERS
OF COASTLINE AND PROXIMITY TO MAJOR TANKER ROUTE IN
MOZAMBIQUE CHANNEL, I POSED QUESTIONS PARA 4 REF B.

3. RAKOTONIAINA REPLIED THAT NEITHER HE NOR THE
RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTA-

TION HAD RECEIVED THE FINAL REPORT OF THE OCTOBER MEETING OF MSC/MEPC FROM IMCO SECRETARIAT. HE EXPLAINED THAT, AS MADAGASCAR HAS NO EMBASSY IN LONDON, IMCO DOCUMENTS FREQUENTLY TAKE SEVERAL MONTHS TO REACH HIS DESK IN ANTANANARIVO. THEREFORE, HE COULD NOT COMMENT ON THE US PROPOSALS.

4. I REPLIED THAT I COULD ONLY SURMISE FROM BACKGROUND IN REF A THAT US PROPOSALS WOULD AIM TO STRENGTHEN TANKER STANDARDS AS WELL AS THE ENFORCEMENT OF THESE STANDARDS. TO THIS RAKOTONIAINA REPLIED THAT ON HIS RETURN FROM THE ACAPULCO CONFERENCE, THE RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT HAD COMMENTED THAT FURTHER TECHNICAL MEASURES TO REDUCE POLLUTION FROM TANKERS WOULD BE TOO EXPENSIVE FOR A DEVELOPING COUNTRY LIKE MADAGASCAR TO IMPLEMENT ON ITS OWN VESSELS. (MADAGASCAR HAS ABOUT FIVE TANKERS RANGING FROM A FEW HUNDRED TO A FEW THOUSAND TONS AND HAS JUST ORDERED A NEW, AS YET UNBUILT, SMALL TANKER FROM A JAPANESE YARD.)

5. WE WILL NOT GET FURTHER SUBSTANTIVE COMMENT FROM MADAGASCAR GOVERNMENT ON US PROPOSALS UNTIL THEY RECEIVE IMCO DOCUMENTS. UNFORTUNATELY THESE DOCUMENTS MAY NOT ARRIVE BEFORE THE FEBRUARY PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE. INITIAL NEGATIVE REACTION FROM MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT BODES ILL. IF DEPT WISHES TO TAKE RISK OF PRODING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MADAGASCAR GOVERNMENT INTO ACTION, IT COULD POUCH COPY (IN FRENCH IF POSSIBLE) OF ENTIRE US PROPOSAL WHICH I COULD ATTEMPT TO SELL TO GOVERNMENT ON BASIS OF ITS LONG COASTLINE AND PROXIMITY TO MAJOR TANKER ROUTE. IF OFFICIALS WERE TO MAINTAIN THEIR NEGATIVE ATTITUDE, I COULD LET MATTER DROP. IN THAT CASE, CONSIDERING THAT MADAGASCAR NOT ONLY DID NOT ATTEND THE OCTOBER JOINT MSC/MEPC MEETING BUT APPARENTLY DID NOT ATTEND THE NOVEMBER IMCO ASSEMBLY, I BELIEVE CHANCES WOULD BE GREATER THAN 50 PERCENT THAT MADAGASCAR WOULD NOT SEND A DELEGATION TO THE PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE. ALTERNATIVELY, WE CAN DROP THE MATTER NOW. IN THIS CASE, I BELIEVE IT EXTREMELY UNLIKELY MADAGASCAR WOULD SEND DELEGATION TO PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE.

5. PLEASE ADVISE.

7. FOR MY INFORMATION, WHAT IS STATUS OF US RATIFICATION OF 1973 OIL POLLUTION PREVENTION CONVENTION?
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SAFETY, POLLUTION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 29-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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